

# RETURN OF THE SPACE COWBOYS



The space cowboys and cowgirls of Johnson Space Center took part in the 2004 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. The Texas Independence Trail Ride made its way through JSC on Feb. 24, and NASA was this year's featured community organization at the rodeo itself. NASA treated rodeo-goers to a moving video tribute to space exploration each evening before the concerts began. On March 2, the rodeo's opening night, the STS-114 crewmembers were treated with Southern hospitality and a standing ovation as they were introduced to rodeo fans. Commander Eileen Collins was joined by her crew of Pilot James Kelly and Mission Specialists Soichi Noguchi, Steve Robinson, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence and Charlie Camarda.

In addition to the NASA tributes in Reliant Stadium, the NASA exhibit was the center of attention at the rodeo's exhibit area in Reliant Center. The interactive exhibit at the rodeo was a huge hit with rodeo visitors both young and old. Teachers and parents lined up with their students and children to get pictures taken in a life-size spacesuit mock-up. Another section of the exhibit, called the Shuttle Launch Experience, gave visitors the feeling of being at a Space Shuttle launch. A life-size mock-up of a Mars Exploration Rover was on hand to inspire and educate visitors. The exhibit also included a three-panel wall series entitled "Returning to Flight... To the Moon... To Mars and Beyond." Visitors could read about NASA's new exploration vision, take an interactive tour of the International Space Station and find out what they would weigh on other planets.

SPACE CENTER

## Roundup

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